

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /059 W
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R 231832Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9474
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 2170

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: SPANISH LIBERALS, LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL HOLD CONVENTION

1. IT WAS THE LIBERALS TURN MARCH 18-19 AS LEADERS, DELEGATES
AND OBSERVERS JAMMED A LARGE CONVENTION HALL IN MADRID TO
EXHORT EACH OTHER IN RINGING CONFIDENT TONES. AS HAS
HAPPENED BEFORE IN THE CASES OF VARIOUS OTHERS GROUPS,
LEADERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES FLEW IN TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT
AND EXPRESS PLEASURE AT THE PROGRESS MADE TOWARD DEMOCRACY
FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WHO HEADED THE VISTORS LUST,
WAS CALLED BACK TO BONN BEFORE THE COVENTION GOT UNDER
WAY, BUT HIS SPEECH (OR A SPEECH IN HIS NAME) WAS READ FOR
HIM, AND HE MANAGE (BARELY WE HEARD) TO SHAKE ONE
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SPANISH LIBERAL LEADER'S HAND BEFORE LEAVING. LUXEMBOURG
PRIME MINISTER THORN STAYED FOR THE SHOW BUT WAS NOT, WE
WERE TOLD PROVATELY IMPRESSED BY THE SPANISH LIBERAL
LEADERSHIP.

2. SPEECHES DURING THE CONVENTION EMPHASIZED TRADITIONAL
LIBERAL VALUES (ONE SPEAKER REFERRED TO "LIBERTIES WITH A

SMALL L") AND ASSERTED THEIR CONTUING TIMELINESS AND IMPORTANCE. WHILE THE LIBERALS CENTRIAR POSITION, OPPOSING BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT, WA MENTIONED BY MORE THAN ONE SPEAKER THERE WAS A NOT SURPRISING TENDENCY TO IDENTIFY THE CONSERVATIVE ALIANZA POPULAR (WHICH HAD HELD A SIMILAR SHOW IN THE SAME HALL ONLY TWO WEEKS BEFORE) AS THE PRINICPAL ELECTORAL ADVERSARY.

3. COMMENT: SUCH ELECTION ORIENTED SPECTACLES WILL OF COURSE BECOME MORE COMMON ONCE THE CAMPAIGN REALLY GETS UNDER WAY. WHAT WE FOUND INTERESTEING ABOUT THIS ONE WAS THAT THE LIBERALS, WHOM AHVE JOINED THE CENTRO DEMOCTATICO) WERE NEVERTHELSS ABLE TO COME UP WITH THE PEOPLE-- AND NOT INCIDENTALLY THE FINANCING TO PUT ON A SHOW COMPARABLE TO THE AP CONVENTION WHICH STIRRED SO MUCH COMMENT. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE ABILITY TO PUT ON A CONVENTION DOES NOT, BY ITSELF, CONVEY A GREAT ABOUT THE ELECTORAL PROSPECTS OF A GIVEN POLITICAL GROUP.EATON

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